

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-14. (Cancelled)

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) A produce decontamination apparatus comprising a substantially enclosed chamber for accepting produce to be decontaminated and/or sterilised, the chamber having a negative pressure and including a produce inlet and a produce outlet, means for producing a free radical saturated atmosphere within the chamber so that, in use, the free radical saturated atmosphere decontaminates and/or sterilises the produce, the means for producing a free radical saturated atmosphere including one or more first atomising sprayheads, a supply of ozonised liquid which is supplied to the first sprayheads, and means for breaking down ~~[[a]]~~ an ozone forming part of the ozonised liquid once discharged from the first sprayheads, ~~said means for catalysing breakdown of ozone including a coating on an interior of the chamber, the coating having one or more ozone catalysing materials,~~ the chamber including at least two conveyor belts that are vertically spaced apart and horizontally positioned relative to each other so that one end of an upper conveyor belt overhangs a lower conveyor belt whereby produce is moved along the upper belt and dropped to the lower belt to be fully exposed to the free radical saturated atmosphere prior to exit from the chamber.

Claim 16. (Cancelled)

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein the means for breaking down the ozone forming part of the ozonised liquid is ~~in the form of~~ an ultraviolet emitting device.

Claim 18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein the means for producing a free radical saturated atmosphere further comprises means for catalysing breakdown of hydrogen peroxide formed from ~~[[the]]~~ ozone of the ozonised liquid once the

ozonised liquid is discharged from the first sprayheads.

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein the means for catalysing the breakdown of hydrogen peroxide includes one or more second atomising sprayheads, and a supply of catalysing liquid which is supplied to the second sprayheads, the catalysing liquid catalysing the breakdown of the hydrogen peroxide formed [[form]] from the ozone of the ozonised liquid once the catalysing liquid is discharged from the second sprayheads.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein the catalysing liquid includes ferrous ions.

Claims 21-24. (Cancelled)

Claim 25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim [[24]] 15, wherein vertical spacing between the conveyor belts is adjustable.

Claim 26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein the chamber is open to atmospheric pressure.

Claim 27. (Previously Presented) Produce decontaminated using the produce decontamination apparatus as claimed in claim 15.

Claim 28. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein said means for breaking down the ozone forming part of the ozonised liquid include a coating on an interior of the chamber, the coating having one or more ozone catalysing materials.

Claim 29. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein at least one of the ozone catalysing materials is titanium oxide, titanium dioxide, or manganese oxide.

Claim 30. (New) A produce decontamination apparatus comprising:

a) a substantially enclosed chamber for accepting produce to be decontaminated and/or sterilized, the chamber having a negative pressure and including a produce inlet and a produce outlet;

b) means for producing a free radical saturated atmosphere within the chamber so that, in use, the free radical saturated atmosphere decontaminates and/or sterilizes the produce, the means including one or more first atomizing sprayheads provided along a length of a produce flow path through the chamber and a supply of ozonized liquid which is supplied to the first atomizing sprayheads;

c) means for breaking down an ozone forming part of the ozonized liquid once the ozonized liquid is discharged from the first sprayheads, the means including an ultraviolet emitting device;

d) means for breaking down hydrogen peroxide formed from reaction of the ozone forming part of the ozonised liquid and ultraviolet light emitted from the ultraviolet emitting device; the means including one or more second atomizing sprayheads provided along the length of the produce flow path and a supply of catalyzing liquid for catalyzing breakdown of hydrogen peroxide which is supplied to the second sprayheads; and

e) at least two conveyor belts provided within the chamber to create the produce flow path; the conveyor belts vertically spaced and horizontally positioned relative to each other creating an upper conveyor belt and a lower conveyor belt and arranged such that one end of the upper conveyor belt overhangs the lower conveyor belt whereby produce is moved along the upper conveyor belt and dropped to the lower conveyor belt to be fully exposed to the free radical saturated atmosphere prior to exit from the chamber.

Claim 31. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 30, wherein the first sprayheads and the second sprayheads are provided in a constant spacing directly above horizontal lengths of the upper conveyor belt and the lower conveyor belt and are provided on at least two sides of the conveyor belt in a vertical space between the upper and lower conveyor belt.

Claim 32. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 30, wherein the catalyzing liquid includes ferrous ions.

Claim 33. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 30, wherein vertical spacing between the upper conveyor belt and the lower conveyor belt is adjustable.

Claim 34. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 30, wherein the chamber is open to atmospheric pressure.

Claim 35. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 30, wherein said means for breaking down the ozone forming part of the ozonised liquid further include a coating on an interior of the chamber, the coating having one or more ozone catalysing materials.

Claim 36. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 35, wherein at least one of the ozone catalysing materials is titanium oxide, titanium dioxide, or manganese oxide.

Claim 37. (New) Produce decontaminated using the produce decontamination apparatus as claimed in claim 30.